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PEACE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS IN AMERICA.

President Allan D. Hole, in response to a request for the statement of a minimum peace program for the association, writes: "Friends stand ready to endorse every step which looks toward international thinking, while at the same time they wish to reaffirm the position which they have always held in regard to war, namely, that the testimony against war must find its fundamental basis in the precepts of religion."

"The above statement is, therefore, to be interpreted to mean that Friends are glad to give their support to any of the organizations which include in their program a recognition of the necessity of international cooperation looking particularly toward the elimination of force as a means of bringing about cooperation between the nations of the world."

JAPAN PEACE SOCIETY.

The society, as has been the custom for several years, sent out notices to religious organizations encouraging the observance of the third Sunday in December as Peace Sunday. The Peace Committee of the Federated Missions published this appeal in the foreign papers, suggesting the observance of the day by foreign churches in Japan. For convenience, the public meeting under the auspices of the Japan Peace Society was held on Saturday, December 16, at the Baptist Tabernacle, Kanda, Tokyo.

In opening the meeting the chairman, Mr. K. Hirazawa, of the Tokyo bar, strongly emphasized the importance of the Japanese people, giving deep and earnest thought as to how the permanent peace of the world may be attained, for, in addition to Japan's general responsibility as to this great task, she faces the necessity of finding some peaceful means of solving the questions vitally affecting her relations to China and America. Dr. J. Soyeda, ex-President of the Railway Board, spoke on "The Future of Militarism," advocating an alliance of all nations vitally interested in checking the growth of militarism. Dr. Doremus Scudder, Tokyo Union Church, spoke on "Hawaii's Contribution Toward the Peace of the Pacific." A summary of these two addresses is published in the December number of the *Japan Peace Movement*. Baron Y. Sakatani, ex-mayor of Tokyo, executive Vice-President of the Japan Peace Society, gave a review of his observations in the war-burdened countries of Europe, as seen in connection with his attendance at the Paris Economic Conference. Dr. H. Nagase, of the headquarter staff of the Japanese Army, gave the closing address on "Peace Prospects." He strongly condemned the present war, recalling John Bright's denunciation of the Crimean War.

INTERCOLLEGIATE PEACE ASSOCIATION.

The association issues an attractive folder as Volume 1, Number 1, of *The Bulletin*, comprising the annual report of the executive secretary. It is here stated that the association desires to maintain an attitude of strict neutrality toward most of the pacifist proposals, with, however, self-confessed leanings toward the League to Enforce Peace. Briefly, "it seeks to have the college youth obtain a larger and richer mental and moral grasp of the nature of international differences and of principles for their settlement—principles grounded upon psychic rather than physical force." This organization operates through the offering of prizes for intercollegiate oratorical contests, with the help of funds supplied by the Misses Mary and Helen Seabury and by the American Peace Society, and with cooperation of local peace societies and State associations. More money for this purpose is urgently needed and contributions are solicited.

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JOINING THE ISSUE

Controversy over a fact, affirmed by one side and denied by another is known in law as an "issue." Taking up the two sides respectively is called "joining the issue." A great need of the peace movement in the argument with its opponents is first to "join the issue." With this aim in view this department was started. It is hoped that many of our readers will be stirred to add their wisdom to this process of "joining the issue." Any intelligent contribution to the problem, if not too long, will be welcomed.—THE EDITOR.

INDIVIDUAL SACRIFICE CAN PREVENT WAR.

THE President has done his best to keep us out of war, and to such an extent that he has even been criticised for being so patient. Therefore all citizens should immediately make all possible efforts and personal sacrifice to aid him in the present crisis and its impending consequences by conscientious thinking, argument, and persuasion. Even in war the controlling forces are mental.

In walking on a precipice we have no time to look around; how to bridge the chasm is the sole question. We can cross other bridges when we come to them; one thing at a time.

1. Every corporation, company, or individual should defer any action which might involve immediate danger of war. Because—

2. Is it not for the good of this country to keep out of war with HONOR when it can be done by none of its citizens traveling into dangerous zones?

3. Is it dishonorable for an American citizen to avoid doing things which otherwise might force his country into war in order to defend its honor? In short—

4. Is it a dishonor to omit doing that which might otherwise require you to defend your honor? But—

5. If it is a great evil for any corporation, company, or individual to defer action not only involving loss of money, but unfortunately danger of war, it is an infinitely greater evil so to act as to plunge a nation into war. Therefore—

6. As most choices in this world are not between good and evil, but between two evils, let every citizen, no matter what the sacrifice, choose the lesser evil and thus help the President to keep us out of war. For—

7. What kind of American citizen is he who, in a terrible crisis, takes risks which may plunge one hundred millions of his FELLOW-CITIZENS into a vortex of blood? Or—

8. What kind of a patriot is he who is so greedy to make money as to be willing to sacrifice his country on an altar of blood by plunging it into war? For—

9. War consists of the dead in convulsive states, groans and shrieking of wounded men, screams of dying horses, shrapnel ripping, tearing, lacerating, and pene-

trating human flesh; pierced bodies, exuding hogsheads of blood, maimed limbs, broken bones, glazing eyes, slowly dying from exposure or starvation, inflammatory rheumatism from watery trenches, skulls smashed, brains oozing out, abdomens ripped open and bowels protruding, and so on *ad infinitum*, producing the most excruciating pains, and it is the healthy and strong who suffer most.

10. If we must choose between war and peace, the lesser evil is peace, but if we make a mistake, it is better to err on the side of peace, for—

11. War is not only a physical hell, but a mental hell. It is fear of battle, the dreaded bayonet charge, and death, blasted hopes of the wounded, involving great mental torture and a future burden to army, family, and country; terrible disappointments, anxieties, and sadness of mothers and sisters at home. All these physical and mental horrors, not to mention atrocities, demonstrate war to be literally hell.

ARTHUR MACDONALD,

DETROIT, MICH., February 1, 1917.

SIR: I consider that the activities of the American Peace Society are distinctly detrimental for the safety, welfare, and prosperity of America. It is so absurdly ridiculous, from my point of view, to talk about peace, the league to enforce peace, when we in no degree, even moral or otherwise, offer our support to the league of nations and carry out the obligations of this country in the Hague conventions, and restore the integrity of the Belgians.

I cannot contribute to the American Peace Society, and I regret exceedingly what I regard as its pernicious activities.

Yours truly,

HENRY B. JOY.

ROSEMONT, PA., February 5, 1917.

SIR: I have now the pleasure to enclose my check for \$25 in furtherance of the work of the American Peace Society.

Also, to acknowledge receipt of the volume, "Peace Through Justice," which I appreciate highly, and from which I anticipate gaining strength in prosecuting my work in the cause at this momentous period in the world's history.

Permit me also to express my great appreciation of your labor in the editorship of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*. I have valued it for many years, but it was never so strong, never so much of an inspiration to the peace-worker, as now.

Very respectfully,

JOHN B. GARRETT.

The *Christian Science Monitor* notes the following:

"A farmer named Thomas Gillaspie, of Collinsville, Ill., was hit by a locomotive a few days ago, and only slightly inconvenienced. It was found that, at the time, he was wearing five waistcoats, two pairs of trousers, and three suits of underclothes. His is said to represent the most striking case of individual preparedness that has thus far come to light. In fact, he was so well prepared that he could not move out of the way of the locomotive quickly enough to avoid collision."

BETWEEN FRIENDS

ASSISTANT EDITORS TO THE FORE—NEWS FROM THE FRONT

General Slaughter of Jingo Ideas and Militaristic Propaganda—A Devastating Carnage

In response to our appeal last month for a journalistic army of assistant editors, armed with automatic pens and rapid-fire typewriters and furnished with extra rounds of peace ideas, a notable display has been made. The army is in the field and is already entrenched. The position of the enemy has been assailed by a strong frontal attack and a raking enfilade. A dangerous gas attack by the enemy at the time of the severing of diplomatic relations with Germany was warmly met and successfully repulsed, and all further efforts on the part of the militarists to gain ground in the territory of American public opinion have so far been nullified. With this issue we are bringing the heavy artillery of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* to bear upon the hostile trenches, constituting a curtain of fire with which we intend to prepare the way for further assaults by you—the infantry.

The nine thousand assistant editors for which we advertised may not all be enlisted as yet, but if reports received at this office are any indication of the total response to our advertisement, the numbers are rapidly rolling up and may well pass the arbitrary mark which we set.

Here is one reply to our appeal. It rings with determination:

"I am an assistant editor of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* and have been for several years—and *did not know it*. I just got my appointment from Washington, D. C., and I think more of it than I did of all three of my appointments (commissions), which I got in 1863 and 1864 while in the service of the United States Army."

Better than that, the writer promises to "begin tangible work" at once. That is what is needed! There is nothing nebulous about an assistant-editorship on the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*. Tangible work is what is expected. The editorial sanctum is not an abode of fine dreams and idealistic trace-ries. If there is any danger of this notion causing confusion, it will perhaps be well to take down both the "Editorial Sanctum" sign and the "Peace Idea Factory" sign that we recommended last month, and put in their place something like this:

Special Field Headquarters; Army of Peace
Base of Operations for Repelling All Attacks Upon National
Sanity and Good Will
Countersign: "With Malice Toward None"

You will note that the assistant editor whom we have quoted above writes that he has filled that post for many years, but did not know it. This will probably be a common experience. You yourself have doubtless been an unappointed assistant editor for some time. You have seen, read, and heard statements which you knew proceeded from ideas hostile to peace. You have been tempted to reply, briefly and succinctly, pointing out the falsity of such ideas, the danger in them that threatened yourself, your people and your country. If you have not done so, it is perhaps because you have not felt that your own views carried sufficient weight or were properly authorized. That timidity you may now lay aside. As field commander in the army of assistant editors of this magazine, in supreme command in your own territory, you may direct attacks against every hostile idea that comes within range of your pen or typewriter. Your official title is, of course: "Member of the American Peace Society." Every member of this Society has full authorization to express on every profitable occasion and as often as possible, and as forcibly as possible, the peace ideas of the Society.

Another assistant editor says: "I notice with interest your editorial on Editors Wanted, and I will begin by writing in to you." Good! Begin anywhere you like, so long as you begin. Begin now. And do not end too quickly. This recruit, whose letter is published in full on another page, is a college professor. College professors are just exactly as welcome as any one else. "Previous condition of servitude" is a matter into which we do not inquire.